4: Joseph et al D, E-5 (1942-1943) 1949
NU28 Papago NU28

Chapter IV

THE PAPAGO FAMILY

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HOME to a Papago is a small cluster of low, earth-colored buildings in a clearing encircled by creosote or mesquite bushes and cacti. The house is commonly a one-room structure, but there may be several rooms or, if the family is large, even several small houses. Near by is a ramada, roofed with dry grass and protected on two or three sides by a paling of saguaro ribs or ocotillo branches, which, if watered, may take root in summer and form a wall with green leaves and brilliant red flowers. Here, in good weather, cooking and other household chores are done. Suspended from crotches or pegs in the ceiling beams are bridles and other horse gear, the family washtub, and various domestic paraphernalia. A forked post holds a large olla pottery jar of water from which everyone drinks. (Water is treasured, for it must be hauled by wagon from a well which may be several miles away.) One or more tiny huts serve as storerooms for tools and grain, and space is often set aside for a chicken yard and a corral. In the yard the dogs lie sleeping in the shade of the family wagon.

[312]

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The Desert People spend most of the year out of doors. Their personal belongings are kept indoors, and in winter they sleep inside, but at least half the year they cook, eat, work, sleep, and visit in the yard or under the ramada. Nevertheless, there is a high degree of privacy, for the brush and the distance between houses or house clusters allows each family to live unmindful of the neighbors.

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The old Papago house, a round structure thatched with grass, has not been used in most parts of the Reservation for fifty years. Modern houses are of the Mexican type: wattle-and-daub, adobe, or stone construction. The wattle house, which is built of saguaro ribs or ocotillo branches plastered with mud, can be cheaply and quickly put up by almost anyone. The adobe brick house is more difficult to construct, and usually helpers must be hired, hence the poorer families cannot afford this type of housing. Stone houses, built near accessible rock outcrops, also require considerable labor and skill and are rather rare.

[Text continues on p. 42-Analyst]

4: Joseph et al D, E-5 (1942-1943) 1949
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342 556 Thus the type of house is something of an index to the occupant's economic status. In the more prosperous eastern districts, adobe construction has been so widely accepted that a wattle house is a fairly sure sign that the occupants have a below-average income. In the western districts, however, a wattle house is far more often a sign of resistance to white culture. For example, at the time of this study all the houses in two of the most conservative villages in Hickiwan District were wattle-and-daub, regardless of the individual owner's economic status.

The type of house roof is also an index to prosperity or acculturation or both. Despite the fact that a roof of thatch overlaid with dirt is cooler in summer and warmer in winter, any eastern Papago who can possibly afford it will roof his house with wood, tar paper, or tin. There is one advantage in the white man's roof—it does not leak as much as a dirt roof.

The visitor can also see evidence of economic status and of attitude toward whites in the house furnishings. The poorer families and those antagonistic to white culture have dirt floors and few tables, chairs, beds, stoves, glass window panes, and "store" dishes. In relatively prosperous and acculturated homes—considerably more numerous in the East than in the West—house 352 556 furnishings may include a good stove, a kerosene refrigerator, a washing machine, and a phonograph or battery radio. In these homes, chairs, tables, beds, some type of stove, and "store" dishes are regarded as necessary for comfort; when families from such homes go to the cactus camp and do without these things, they feel that they are "camping out."

[778] In a Catholic home there is always a little altar, a small table or shelf draped with white. Here one sees *santos* or holy pictures, a candle in a red glass, and perhaps some paper flowers. An alarm clock, a pencil, and other odds and ends are not considered out of place here.

342 [414] All houses and storerooms, however flimsily built, have doors and some kind of lock. Storerooms are kept locked even during the day except when someone is working close by, and houses are locked when the family goes away for even part of a day. "No one from here would steal anything, but a stranger might."

356 515 House and yard are almost invariably neat and clean; even dirt floors are sprinkled and swept every morning. The Papago also values personal neatness and cleanliness. Neither is easy to achieve in this dusty, water-scarce country.

513 Sleeping arrangements vary greatly according to personal predilection. Most people, except the very old, now have beds, but everyone can, and frequently does, sleep on the floor or the ground without discomfort. As a matter of fact, some of the beds are without mattresses or springs; the owners merely

[Text continues on p. 44-Analyst]

7: Lumholtz N-5 (1909-1910) 1912
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look upon it as being worth a good deal of money to the one who submits to the operation. His bow and four arrows, the result of much labor, he sold for $1.25. I gave him some tobacco, candy, and raisins, and we separated great friends.

In the afternoon I arrived at a house outside of which an old medicine-man, Castillo, was singing to soothe a patient, a middle-aged, powerful looking man who was lying on his back in front of him. His singing was accompanied by the rasping of two sticks; one end of the notched one he held by his left hand, while the other end rested against an inverted basket, and he drew the rasping stick each time up toward him and then down, the opposite movement to the one which we should use to produce the same result. Near the basket on the ground an effigy of a horned lizard had been placed; it was made of wood and daubed with ochre, its head turned toward the patient.

Some Indians came up smiling as if they wished it to be understood that they did not believe in the performance, for they knew that white men laugh at this. One of them obligingly brought me a basket for sale as well as three small ancient objects, a flint arrow-point, a spinning whorl, and a small perforated stone disk, all threaded on a string. In the meantime the medicine-man, whom I watched from my horse, was finishing his treatment by placing the effigy repeatedly on the patient's leg, breathing and blowing at the same time. The man had a pain in his leg which had been caused by a horned lizard, for, according to Papago beliefs, all animals have

12: Hill Y-5 (ca. 1940) 1942 NU28 Papa'go NU28

323 oughly. Taking a piece of the damp clay between the palms of her hands, the worker deftly rolls it into a coil just long enough to reach halfway around the top of the vessel. This is pinched into place with the wet hand. A similar coil completes the circuit. The anvil is now held in the left hand and supports the interior wall of the vessel, while the paddle rapidly strikes the exterior and smooths the coil into place. The upper edge is pinched off with the wet fingers until it is of an even height all the way around. After the addition of each completed coil, the piece is set aside to dry until it retains its shape.

When a sufficient number of coils has been added, the walls are sloped up with the handle of the paddle and the hands. The smoothing is done with a pebble dipped frequently in water. After the vessel has dried thoroughly in the sun, it is ready to be slipped. This slip is made by pouring off most of the water used for moistening the clay, dipping the hands, tools, etc., and applying to the vessel the fine wet sediment which remains in the bottom of the container.

A somewhat heavier slip is made from a very fine-grained red clay (or possibly shale, rather than clay) which apparently contains a high percentage of hematite. This material is obtained from the mountains near by, ground up, mixed with water, and applied with a piece of rag. In general, the thinner type is employed as a wash on ollas or on cooking pots which are subjected to heat, and the finer, thicker mixture on the others. After the application of the slip and a final polishing, the vessel is ready for firing.

A shallow pit is dug and exposed to the air and sun, usually for a day, to drive out all traces of moisture. Small branches and chips of mesquite are burned to form a layer of coals and ashes. On this are arranged pieces of tin to support the vessels. The latter are placed mouth downward upon the tin and covered with pieces of the same metal. Sticks of mesquite about a foot in length are stood up on end and rested against the tin, and the whole covered with chips and small branches. The firing process takes about 20 minutes, then the ashes are knocked off, the tin removed, and the vessels lifted out with two long sticks and set aside to cool. When they first emerge from the pit, they are a rich chocolate brown, but upon cooling, soon change to dull red. Probably prior to white contact, the pottery was fired in much the same manner as that practiced by the Pima. Possibly large fragments of broken ollas or jars took the place of the tin.

323 386 When the vessels have cooled sufficiently to permit handling, the black decoration is applied. The paint for this is made by boiling down mesquite gum and chips of the wood. When finished, it is a thin brown liquid which is applied by means of small sharp-pointed sticks. The decorated vessel is then held in the heat and slowly revolved until the paint turns black and sets. This completes the process.

323 415 [352] The ollas or water jar appears to be the most-used article among the present-day Papago. Many were observed beneath the ramadas of the houses, sometimes suspended from the cross-beams, sometimes placed in three-forked logs set upright in the ground. The majority of those now used are of a plain, unslipped earthenware in the natural color of the clay. Apparently a thin reddish wash is sometimes applied to the exterior. [531] Several large storage ollas of a grayish or brownish buff, decorated in a brownish red and very suggestive of ancient Hohokam ware, were observed. Smaller black cooking pots with convex bottoms are still to be found. This black color is due to a deposition of soot from the fire, rather than to the natural color of the clay. Bowls and cups are likewise used at times. The writer was also shown several human figures, chiefly male, [532] which had been made in neighboring villages.

Pa 658 797

There is what is termed a "contract school" located at Tucson, which many of the Papago children attend. The school is established and supported in part by a missionary department of the Presbyterian church. The buildings are large, airy, well planned, and adapted to the purpose required. The pupils seem well disciplined and clean. The government pays a stated sum annually to the school for each pupil in attendance as reimbursement for board and clothing furnished. The school owns 5 or 6 good buildings, all in good condition and well furnished, also a farm of 43 acres. On account of lack of water but few garden vegetables are grown, but barley and wheat yield abundantly.

Some of the scholars are taught carpentering, painting, and plastering, and their work is quite satisfactory.

PAPAGOS LIVING OFF THE RESERVATION.

Pa 131 197

These Papago Indians live in the southern part of Pima county, along the southern border of the territory of Arizona. Their language is similar to that spoken by the Pimas. They roam over a country about 100 miles in width north and south and about 125 miles east and west, and there are a few small villages over the Mexican border but near the boundary line.

Pa 13 231

The country in which they live consists of broad, open plains, divided by mountain ranges. The valleys or plains are arid, having no natural springs or running streams of water; yet after the summer rains these plains are covered with grass of a fine quality, and owing to the dryness of the air this grass is cured or dried on the ground and furnishes good, rich food for cattle during the remainder of the year.

Pa 361 312 342 [231]

The Indians select their dwelling places at the foot of the mountains near the mouth of the various canyons that open out into the plains. Small springs often flow through these canyons and sink into the sand. The Indians utilize these springs or sink wells into the sand, and thus secure the underflow from the springs. Their cattle feed out into the plains and return to these wells or springs to drink. Near these watering places, usually on an elevation, the Indians build their houses in their permanent villages of adobe, about 12 by 16 feet in area and about 8 feet in height. Small poles are laid on top and crosswise of the building, and on these are laid brush, with weeds or grass on the brush, the whole covered with about 6 inches of clay, which is impervious to water.

Pa [352]

The floor is of clay, and there is one doorway, but no windows. The doorway is sometimes closed with a dried beef hide. As a rule, they live on the outside of the house. The house contains no furniture except a little bedding and some cooking utensils.

Pa 262 439 291

Their food consists of beef, dried wild fruit, dried mesquite beans made into a kind of bread, and wild game. During the summer rains they raise some vegetables, which they dry for winter use. They also sell or trade cattle to settlers in the Gila and Santa Cruz valleys for wheat and corn, which the women grind in their crude way into meal and flour. They have adopted the civilized mode of dress, and are gradually learning the use of soap.

The women of the tribe are virtuous and industrious, being in these traits far in advance of any other tribe in the territory.

Pa 161 648 Pa 46

There are 4,800 of this tribe living off the Papago reservation. With rare exceptions they are self-sustaining, have always been good citizens, and on many occasions have joined with the whites to assist in suppressing murderous Apaches. The principal occupation of the men is raising cattle and horses, and a little farming when they can find a piece of damp ground that will raise corn and vegetables, hunting, chopping wood around mining camps, and ordinary labor wherever they can find it. If there is any mixed blood in the tribe it is not perceptible.

There are several mining camps scattered throughout the country which these Indians inhabit, and in some of the large valleys wealthy men or companies have sunk wells 500 or 1,000 feet deep and established cattle ranches or ranges, and many Indians are employed about these camps and mines.

Pa 133 487 224

The country is somewhat difficult of access, as there are several mountain ranges running through it. The roads follow the valleys, and sometimes it is "a long way around where it is only a short way across". These mountain ranges abound in game, which the Indians hunt.

Pa 273 231

A month's travel in these Papago villages failed to reveal a single case of drunkenness, although there are frequent instances of drunkenness among Indians in the streets of Tucson. They have great numbers of horses and cattle, but it is impossible to form a correct estimate as to numbers. The horses are small and inferior, but the cattle are fully up to the average in size and quality.

Pa 648 771 197

These Indians as a tribe have always been exceptionally friendly to the white people. They have never received aid from the government. The little religion they have is a conglomerate of Roman catholicism, superstition, and Indian hoodooism. The Roman Catholic church established missions among them more than 150 years ago.

THE RESERVATION AND NONRESERVATION PAPAGO INDIANS, PIMA AGENCY.

Report of Special Agent C. W. Wood on the reservation and nonreservation Papagos of Pima and Cochise counties.

Pa 101 Pi [101] Pa [797]

TRIBAL NAME.—The Papagos and Pimas were formerly one tribe. Authorities differ as to the derivation and meaning of the name. One view is that Papago means "hair cut", another that it means "baptized". Neither of these meanings has any etymological basis or value. The most reasonable derivation of the term seems to be the following, derived from conversation with the oldest Indians: the division of the Pimas occurred from the labors